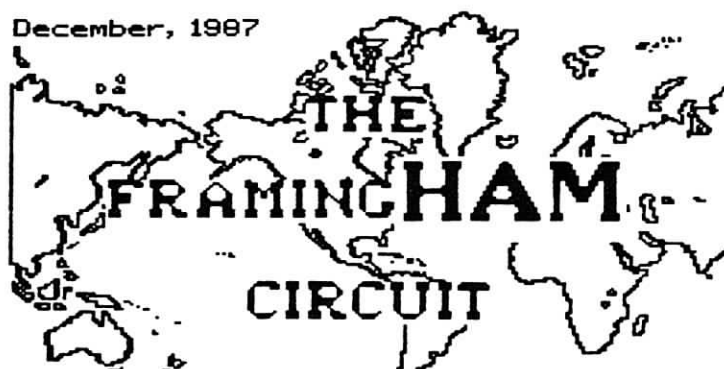


NOV

December, 1987



The Monthly Publication of W1FY, The Framingham Amateur Radio Association  
F.A.R.A., P.O. Box 3005, Framingham, Ma., 01701 Vol. 54, No. 12

## Meetings

The club meets on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:30pm at the Danforth Museum rear entrance on Lexington St., Framingham, Ma.

NEXT MEETING DEC. 3, 1987

## Guest Speaker

Our Activities Chairperson, Marjie Stern K1HIA, has lined up an excellent speaker for our next meeting. I am really excited that we are able to have him!

<sup>1987</sup>  
**Bruce Schwoegler, WBZ**

Television and Radio Meteorologist will be with us to talk about the weather and the use of Amateurs in spotting for his forecasts. I'm sure he will be very happy to answer all your questions too. See you there! Don't miss this one.

Following our meeting there will be refreshments as usual. Peter Simpson, K1AXY wants to remind you that we need those of you who have a special talent for baking to bring some delectable morsels to sweeten our taste buds following our meeting. We expect a good turnout for the meeting and don't want to see anyone go away hungry!

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MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER, 1987  
MEETING OF THE FRAMINGHAM AMATEUR  
RADIO ASSN. INC.

The November meeting of the Framingham Amateur Radio Assn. opened at 7:35 p.m. Nov. 5. President, Burt Shaffer, N1DDO, was at the gavel.

The brief meeting got underway with introductions from all the members and then proceeded on to the business at hand.

The first order of business was a report on the Flea Market from Chairman Lew Nyman, K1AZE. Lew reported the following:

.There were about 630 people through the door.

.The "early bird" special attracted 47 people and was a success.

.The club table did quite well.

.Buyers and Sellers were uniformly happy with business.

.Business was so heavy that some dealers left with far less than they arrived with.

Lew also thanked the crews who helped set up on Saturday and those people who came early on Sunday to help set up. He also noted that next spring's flea market will be about April 10.

Burt then thanked Lew for the tremendous job he has done and continues to do as Flea Market chairman. He also thanked the many volunteers that turned out to help.

Burt also had words of praise for Dick Marshall, W1KUG, who headed up the volunteer exam effort. Everything went smoothly. Ed Weiss, W1NXC, part of the VE team, roughly that 26 exams were given and that the pass rate was about 65 percent, the highest we have ever had.

Next, Burt asked members to share some of their more memorable experiences with the membership. Several members stepped forward and shared some very interesting items with the membership.

Moving along, the next order of business was a mini-auction which netted the club more than \$30. The items auctioned included:

.Two subscriptions to WORLDRADIO.  
.Five ICOM hats  
.Several coils.

Next, Marc Stern, N1BLH, District Emergency Coordinator and net manager of the FAAREN net, reminded everyone about the following items:

.The upcoming Section Emergency Test

, scheduled for Nov. 21.

. An Eastern Mass.  
Emergency Radio Council  
meeting in Maynard Nov.  
14.

. Weather Net reactivation.

.The final business of the evening dealt with letters. Burt noted that the club received the following communications:

. A very nice thank you note from Mike Weissel, KALIKW, thanking FARA for his scholarship award.

.The section Emergency Test and the Eastern Mass Emergency Radio Council meeting.

Vice President Don Morse, KA1MLM, also reminded club members about the FARA Elmer program.

The meeting adjourned about 8:10 to Papa Gino's where "pizza night" was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Stern, N1BLH  
Secretary, FARA, 73's

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#### FROM THE PODIUM!

Somehow people seem to resist keeping things simple. Now I know that some things are the result of tradition, and at times some people play at showing how complicated they can make life, but come on people, let's get with it, things are too complex now! I

suppose you are wondering what in the world I'm going to focus on. Well, it's HOW RADIO OPERATORS ID. The rules state that call signs must be given once every ten minutes. It says nothing about giving the other person's sign. Sure, you have to give the other sign if you're looking for that person, but, you don't have to give it every time you transmit. Have you listened to this kind of QSO?

K5EWS.....THIS IS  
N5BRS.....N5BRS THIS IS  
K5EWS....HOW ARE YOU JOE  
K5EWS.....FINE BILL GOOD TO  
HEAR YOU IN THERE N5BRS....and  
so on. The repeaters are  
crammed with unnecessary call  
signs. So please be aware of  
the number of times that you  
ID, unless you just like to  
hear you call sign.

We are entering into the holiday season and I would like to wish all of you a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS, a HAPPY CHANUKAH, and most of all a A NEW YEAR filled with all of your best wishes!

73's BURT, N1DDO

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#### WHY DO WE USE ROGER?

by Art Ross, W5KR,  
Brownsville, TX.  
taken from QRZ, Dec. 86

Back in the thirties, before Hitler had begun to make the world miserable for humanity, U.S. radiotelephone procedures were, to put it gently, informal. Phrases such as GO AHEAD, GOT IT, and anything else which more or less served the purpose of communicating was acceptable. Life was a bowl of cherries in

the radiotelephone circuits. Besides, most formal traffic went by radiotelegraph; that mode has always had regular procedures.

Air travel had begun to increase in spite of the Great Depression. The informality of radiotelephone procedures began to disappear under the pressure of increased traffic; The military phonetic alphabet of WW I - ABLE, BAKER, CHARLIE, etc. was used by aircraft ops; The rest just picked it up. GO AHEAD, REPEAT, OK, GOT IT continued in use because of the brevity.

The British government requested that the U.S. adopt British radiotelephone procedures. They wanted the British personnel who flew in the U.S. to remain proficient in their own radiotelephone procedures. They had the very best of reasons; They wished to stop accidents before they happened.

GO AHEAD was a British artillery command. It was the signal to begin "begin firing barrage in accordance with directions already given." REPEAT, the U.S. signal used in requesting fills, was the British command to fire a duplicate barrage. There were other differences too. We began to use OVER and SAY AGAIN in order to avoid confusion in the war zone.

The ABLE, BAKER, CHARLIE alphabet continued to be standard. The phonetic equivalent of the letter "R" was ROGER. For that reason it was declared to be the equivalent of the radiotelegraph "R" as used to say "message received." That was all it meant. All circuit monitors were quick to step in when any of the ops used any

procedural signs (pro signs) in any but the prescribed manner. The offending operator was quickly informed of his misdeed, disciplinary measures were applied for repeat offenders.

One of the common errors was the use of ROGER as YES. The monitors sternly admonished all operators that ROGER indicates "message received," and that AFFIRMATIVE be used for "yes" and that NEGATIVE be used to indicate "no." After a few of those on-the-air chew-outs, there were few who did not get the message.

Aviation expanded rapidly following WW II. Many countries began trying routes to other countries. The language of operational aviation quickly became English. But the use of English brought up another problem; many foreign languages could not adapt to the old ABLE, BAKER, CHARLIE alphabet. It was a bit unnerving to air traffic controllers and airways communication personnel also.

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) had been formed sometime in the post war era. It took up the problem of an international phonetic alphabet. They did quite well, but the first effort had a few glitches. That was the first ALPHA, BRAVO, COCOA alphabet. There were still some countries whose language could not properly pronounce some of the new phonetic words.

A second ICAO phonetic alphabet came out in the early fifties and was placed in the ICAO manual. Two major changes had occurred in the phonetic alphabet but the

proword for "message received" continued to be ROGER.

The reason for the continued use of ROGER to indicate "message received," that and nothing more, was the organization of the ICAO manual. The section which established the official phonetic alphabet was contained in the policy section of the manual. The word ROGER was (and still is) in the communications part of the manual. We all know that the equivalent of "R" is ROMEO in the ICAO alphabet; we use ROMEO when giving a phonetic spelling when transmitting a message. But we still use ROGER when we want to say, "Message Received," that and nothing more.

Editor note(QRZ): So when someone asks you a question on phone that requires a yes or no answer, ROGER is definitely not the reply, (even though we hear it being used as such over and over again.), so with the above information to digest, you are that much more educated.

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#### **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

11/16/87

Ted,

This note is in response to the last club letter regarding ELMERS. Although I am now an advanced class ham I have only been involved in ham radio for slightly over a year. I'm not yet knowledgeable to volunteer to be an ELMER, but could sure use one!

There are alot of subjects that one just doesn't

learn by reading the ARRL books. For example: How does one get involved in "NETS"? What kinds of nets are there and what is there function? or..... How does one get involved in contesting? Does anyone in the club do any contesting? How often do folks operate the club rig? I guess a more general question is How's DX?.....Who's chasing it and what are the best times & frequencies to catch some?

I could really use some help with the basics....to quote Bartles And James "We Thank You For Your Support" ....Hi Hi

73's Brenda Forde, N1ELD

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#### **From The Editors's Desk!**

I am very pleased to have received your letter Brenda. I know that there will be an excellent response from those members of the club that are active in nets and avid DX chasers. For a start I will bring a current copy of the ARRL Net Directory to the next meeting for you.

I would just like to say that I think the club had a very good year. Both of the flea markets were terrific, the picnic in the summer was fun and we had excellent speakers at our meetings. The attendance at our meetings has been excellent. One of the unique attributes of our club is that it is a club comprised of your families. You, your spouses and your children have made our club one of the best in Eastern Massachusetts. Keep up the good work FARA.

I hope that everyone has a very Merry Christmas, a Happy Chanukah and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

73's Theodore Gruber, WB1ECE

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HR ARRL BULLETIN NR 86 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS  
NEWINGTON CT NOVEMBER 2, 1987  
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1988, THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE FEE FOR AN AMATEUR EXAMINATION BY A VEC WILL BE FOUR DOLLARS AND FIFTY SIX CENTS. THIS INCREASE IS BASED UPON A 4.3 PERCENT RISE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1986 AND SEPTEMBER 1987. THE ARRL VEC WILL CHARGE FOUR DOLLARS AND FIFTY FIVE CENTS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1 AR

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#### OUR OFFICERS

President:	Burt Shaffer, N1DDO	872-0534
Vice-Pres:	Don Morse, KA1MLM	881-4188
Treasurer:	Dick Marshall, WA1KUG	877-0563
Secretary:	Marc Stern, N1BLH	Club Box
Activities :	Marjie Stern, KA1HIA	CLUB Box
Director-at-Large:	Lew Nyman, K1AZE	879-7456



HR DX BULLETIN NR 44  
FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS  
NEWINGTON CT

NOVEMBER 6, 1987

TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

Thanks to W9NUF and the Northern Illinois DX Association for the following DX information.

CHINA. Tong, chief operator at BY1PK, and Wang, deputy secretary general of the crsa, are currently visiting the United States. They have just concluded three days in Chicago where they visited with ARRL officials and with NIDXA members. They also visited ARRL headquarters in Newington last week.

DXAC notes. W4FRU, chairman of the DX advisory committee, reports that the committee is now voting whether to recommend country status for Aruba and will vote in mid December whether to recommend that the Arab Democratic Sahara Republic, RASD, be accorded country status.

EAST MALAYSIA. Dave, WA2HZR, plans to be active from 9M6 on cw only during late November and early December.

GLORIOSO. FH4EC/G is currently active and will remain so through the middle of the month. QSLs go via F6FNU.

MEXICO. Lloyd and Iris Colvin are currently active from XE2GKG. watch 21250 and 14195 khz.

OMAN. Watch for increased activity from A4 from now through November 8, including some RTTY and AMTOR operation. Also, Tom, K3TW, hopes to get on cw from Oman during November.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS. ZK1XR will cease operation from Raratonga in the next few days. QSLs for Betty go to the WA7RVA callbook address.

SUDAN. PA0GAM has returned to the Sudan. He is active around 3501 or 3512 khz around 0200z. QSLs for Gerben go to box 3794, Khartoum. no call sign should appear on the envelope.

RTTY report,

HB0/DL6EAQ	14092 khz at 1305z	QSL TO DL6EAQ
HB0/HB9AON	14090 khz at 2115z	QSL TO DJ2YD
IS0CDZ	21097 khz at 1315z	
S79WS	21099 khz at 1230z	
UT5RP	21093 khz at 1400z	
4K1LPK	14092 khz at 0030z	QSL TO UY500
DF9FM/4S7	14093 khz at 1230z	
5N27ALE	14093 khz at 2100z	QSL TO DJ2VZ

Stations worked or heard in Northern Illinois in recent days include,  
BV2FA 14184 KHZ AT 0100Z  
BY9GA 14013 KHZ AT 0030Z  
FH4EC/G 14180 KHZ AT 1850Z

FH8CB	28530	KHZ	AT	1720Z	
FR5ZD	14005	KHZ	AT	0225Z	
JW5E	14027	KHZ	AT	2010Z	
KC6SZ	7003	KHZ	AT	1130Z	QSL TO JA6BSM
OY7ML	14026	KHZ	AT	1615Z	
PZ1DV	10107	KHZ	AT	0255Z	
SU1MR	7002	KHZ	AT	2255Z	QSL TO N6CW
TA4A	7011	KHZ	AT	0130Z	
TJ1DL	14025	KHZ	AT	1640Z	QSL TO DK8SO
TZ6VV	14160	KHZ	AT	2055Z	
UA0FM	7005	KHZ	AT	1310Z	
RM8MF	7009	KHZ	AT	0150Z	
UO4OWO	7014	KHZ	AT	0120Z	
V85HG	14190	KHZ	AT	2330Z	
VP2VDX	7005	KHZ	AT	0040Z	QSL TO KT6V
3B1DA	7004	KHZ	AT	0155Z	
3B1DB	7008	KHZ	AT	0210Z	
4K0D	14210	KHZ	AT	0050Z	QSL TO UA1MU
5H1HK	7002	KHZ	AT	2240Z	QSL TO JH4RHF
9L1GG	14003	KHZ	AT	2045Z	
9Q5DA	21010	KHZ	AT	1930Z	
9Q5NW	21248	KHZ	AT	1845Z	AR

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HR PROPAGATION FORECAST BULLETIN NR 45  
 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS  
 NEWINGTON CT  
 NOVEMBER 9, 1987  
 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

The solar flux was in a slow decline last week, but at 95 on November 8 it was still high enough to provide some excitement. An alert operator could have worked all continents on 28 mhz, even with the solar flux 25 points below the october 15 record for this sunspot cycle. The solar flux curve is leveling off, and higher values are expected this week.

The sun is now close to its optimum position for northern hemisphere dx. Even if the solar flux should drop into the 80s, there could still be good propagation on all but the longest east west circuits. The magnetic field activity level is critical. Latest information is available in the WWV propagation bulletins at 18 minutes after each hour. Their k index should be 2 or lower for good high latitude propagation, such as New England to Northern Europe. K values of 4 or higher mean poor or no propagation on paths passing near or through the north auroral zone.

Outbreaks of new activity on the sun, common at this point in the sunspot cycle, usually cause sharp increases in the earths magnetic field, so the solar flux peak may not bring the best high latitude propagation. This explains the good siganls from Europe on 28 mhz in recent days, despite the flux being in the 90s this past weekend.

American sunspot numbers for October 29 through November 4 were between 42 and 73 with a mean of 56.0 AR